**Principal’s Special Credit Challenge**

**Special Day Celebrations**

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| **What is the name of the Special Day?**  Australia Day  **When does it occur?**  Every year on the 26th January |
| What does it commemorate?  The arrival of the first fleet from England to the new colony at Botany Bay in New South Wales. This fleet was made up of settlers and convicts, soldiers and families. The governor, Captain Arthur Philip, claimed the whole of the land for Britain on that day and raised the British flag for the first time.  At that time, the British people were setting up colonies all around the world. The colonists started to celebrate the anniversary of the landing each year on January 26th almost immediately.  The day was originally called Foundation Day, but changed to Australia Day about 100 years ago. |
| **What special traditions or events are held to celebrate the Special Day?**  This is a holiday for all Australians. We celebrate in many different ways. The government usually has some special events like giant barbecues for the community or a fireworks show in the evening.  It is a day when many migrants to Australia like to attend a citizenship ceremony and be granted Australian citizenship.  The day is a time that many of the groups in Australia show their special identity. There are many dances, performances and shows put on by migrants and the Aboriginal people.  The announcement is made for the Australian of the Year. This is one special person who has achieved great things in the world. |
| **What are your special memories of the Special Day?**  I enjoy the Australia Day fireworks around the river in Perth. About 500000 people go out and find a place around the river, in the building s in the city or in Kings Park and watch fireworks over the Swan River. We all bring torches and shine them together and that makes us all feel like a part of the show. One time, I went on my boat and was on the river while the fireworks went off.  Because it is usually hot in January, I like to go to the beach for a swim and have a barbecue with friends to celebrate Australia Day. |
| **Other Special Day Information.**  Some people do not like January 26th being Australia Day and suggest January 1st 1901as a better day because it was the first day of the Australian Commonwealth parliament. |



Celebrated every 26th January all across Australia.



Celebrate by going to the ocean and see how the first fleet arrived at Sydney Cove.

Celebrate by finding some Aboriginal Artwork.